

CNN news. Her emotions and creativity is reflected in her heart-felt poem which I submit for the RECORD along with her story in her own words.

I stayed home sick from school. When I awoke, I found my mom tuned into CNN. At first, I couldn't believe what was happening. It was like a movie. The twin towers were on fire and came crashing down. The people running on the streets trying desperately to get away. I was then glued to the television and the news reports CNN gave were unbelievable. They did an interview on relatives of those victimized by the attacks. Looking at their faces and seeing the pain in their eyes was overwhelming for me. It broke my heart because I realized that something traumatic can happen to anyone so unexpectedly. They didn't know they were going to die that day. No one suspected they would lose their loved ones. Then I heard about the lost firemen, those who went into save lives and ended up losing their own. When my mom and dad left for work, and my brother and sister were at school, I had a lot of time to myself and I couldn't help but reflect on what was happening. I knew people would be asking, "Why?" or "Where is God when you need Him?" or they would be pointing fingers looking for someone to blame. I can't blame them for being angry because this is terribly disappointing. However, I was thinking that if we continue to seethe with anger instead of uniting to help one another, the situation will be worse than it already is. It's so sad. We need support more than ever, but most of all, I feel we need a God whose power is much more great than the amount of evil in our world. It's harder to trust now and it's hard to maintain hope. We need a strength that defeats our own. With all this on my mind, I wrote it down, and I choose to express myself by writing a poem about a day we shall never forget.

TAKE YOUR SEATS

Passengers take their seats
On a flight to a set destination,
Not knowing that on this day
They will cry out with desperation.
Employees take their seats
In offices stories high,
Not knowing that in this city
Many of them will die.
New York's usual rhythm stopped
When loud explosion came.
It took our nation by surprise
On this long tragic day.
Firefighters and police
Rush to save their lives.
Courageous heroes trapped within
Feared to have not survived.
Faces and dreams wiped away,
The very thought makes me cry.
To know these victims cried in anguish,
Tears falling from their eyes.
Father why did this happen?
Your children have been killed.
Friends and families mourn their deaths.
There is a great void to fill.
A freedom-loving nation torn
United we must stand.
Help us to be strong, I pray
Shelter us with Your hand.
Have mercy on these victims God,
Whose lives came to a sudden stop.
Grant comfort to their loved ones
And be their unshaken rock.
How can this world have so much hate?
Although I've been there too.
Teach us to love instead of hate
Help us to be like You.
Passengers take their seats
On a flight to a set destination.
Not knowing that on this day,
Their flight will lead to Heaven.

SOCCER HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an exciting event that will be taking place next week in my Congressional District. On October 8, 2001 the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame, on Oneonta, New York, will award the National Soccer Medal of Honor to a truly remarkable group of individuals, the Championship 1991 U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.

The National Soccer Medal of Honor is a special honor created by the members of the Society of American Soccer History (SASH), and Board of Directors of the National Soccer Hall of Fame to be awarded on special occasions when an individual has so influenced the sport of soccer in the United States as to effect the course of its history. The medal is rarely bestowed. In fact, the October 8th presentation will be only the third in the last twenty years!

The amazing accomplishment of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in China in 1991 opened the door for tremendous gains in the world of women's soccer for the United States. A few such achievements include; a first Women's world championship tournament and World Championship title, the addition of women's soccer as an official Olympic event played for the first time at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, a foundation for the most successful women's sporting event in history—the 1999 Women's World Cup hosted in the United States, and last but far from least, the creation of the first women's professional soccer league in the U.S.—the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) which is in its inaugural season.

On this tenth anniversary of the unprecedented accomplishment of a group of 18 American soccer players, their coaches and support staff at the first ever Women's World Championships in China, the National Soccer Medal of Honor will be presented once again to the 1991 U.S. Women's National Team:

Michele Akers, Amy Allman, Tracey Bates-Leone, Debbie Belkin, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Wendy Gebauer, Linda Hamilton, Mia Hamm, Mary Harvey, April Heinrichs, Lori Henry, Shannon Higgins-Cirovski, Carin Jennings-Gabarra, Kristine Lilly, Megan McCarthy, Kim Maslin-Kammerdeiner, Carla Overbeck, Head Coach Anson Dorrance, Coach Tony DiCicco, Coach Lauren Gregg.

This honor is to be awarded at the Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, New York. The new \$7 million museum opened in 1999 on the Hall's 61 acre soccer campus to rave reviews. The highly interactive, youth-oriented museum tells the story of soccer in the USA from the earliest games played on the Boston Common to the latest scores and standings. They have been host to international teams from the USA, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, Chile and Saudi Arabia as well as local collegiate and high school championships. The Hall of Fame also offers a summer long tournament series for premier and club teams in every age category. Mr. Speaker, I have visited the National Soccer Hall of Fame numerous times. With each return visit, I encounter something new and exciting.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to bid all those who will attend this ceremony and the honorees my best wishes for the success of their event and applaud their desire to honor such a phenomenal group of athletes—the 1991 U.S. Women's National Team.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011:

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by my colleague, Mr. CONYERS. It is time that we hold the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accountable for the gaps in service to disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. This amendment will set a system in place that will allow the public to routinely monitor any failures of the Department to provide equitable service. In addition, this amendment makes county level data on USDA program participation of disadvantaged producers available to the public. The amendment also requires the release of similar data on participation in Farm Services Agency (FSA) county committee elections, and requires that the process of opening and counting ballots in county committee elections be open to the public.

Mr. Chairman, because of my role as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I have been approached by Hispanic farmers across the country who are alleging discriminatory practices by the USDA and the FSA. The USDA claims that no discrimination has taken place, but the stories that I have personally heard from these farmers lead me to a very different conclusion. In fact, I am so concerned by what I have heard, that I have requested a General Accounting Office (GAO) audit with my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOE BACA. This audit, which is currently underway, asks, among other things, how much time it has taken the USDA and FSA to process loans for Hispanic farmers as compared with the non-Hispanic population. According to my constituents, the slow turn around time of loans from the USDA makes it impossible for them to plant their crops until it is too late. The lateness in planting the crops leads to the failure of the yield, and ultimately to the default on their loans. In addition, I have heard stories of corruption in regard to county committees and the elections of committee officers that greatly exacerbate the problem. These issues need to be addressed now.

I know that the Small and Disadvantaged Farmer Access and Accountability Amendment is not going to address all of these issues, but it is a start. I am hopeful that passage of this amendment will lead to a more equitable situation for Hispanic and other minority farmers, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the amendment offered by Mr. CONYERS.